

# WHAT WELL DRESSED WOMEN WILL WEAR

BY *Cume Rillenhouse*

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## Young Girls Are the Real Dictators of Fashions

Special Correspondence of The Star.

NEW YORK, June 17, 1916.  
 "It is quite absurd," said one of the leading dressmakers in New York, "to emphasize in any special way the clothes for young girls, because there are no clothes for the middle-aged or the old."  
 She was right in her statement, although it had a sweeping quality that all brief statements must have to be effective. Generally speaking, the young girl of sixteen is the one for whom the fashions of all femininity are created, from the cradle to the grave.

In James Forbes' new play, "Sweet Genevieve," the star, Marie Dressler, says in that poignantly humorous way which only this actress can use: "All the world loves a broiler."  
 Miss Dressler is, as her admirers know, far from slim, and as she sits dejectedly on the steps of a flesh-reducing sanatorium which she runs, after soliloquizing on her chance of romance with any man at her age and with her figure, and makes this pungent remark, her audience shouts its approval of this biting truth.

Mr. Forbes is right. All the world does love a broiler. And this is especially true of the designers of clothes. No matter what age a woman may be, it is compulsory in some degree that she adopt the fashions that are intended for the dashing, attractive, buoyant, self-confident type of American youthfulness that does not mind in the least being called a "broiler" instead of "sweet sixteen," as she was in decades past.

At sixteen and at twenty-five life does not demand a struggle for dignity. All that the world asks of a woman during this period of her life is a spontaneous outburst of joyous activity.

There are women of other ages in this world. They are divided into three classes—those who look young, those who try to look young and those who are content to look old. The majority feel like beating their fists against the doors of the temple of dressmaking and demanding that some kind of raiment be devised for them. The dressmakers, however, are subtle in their way of handling the situation. They merely cajole and flatter and persuade a woman to believe that she is young enough to wear what they have.

What woman is made of such stern stuff that she can persistently turn a deaf ear to such persuasiveness? There is no woman who does not want to look young, although her superior rival in that field is a man, and men, in the clothes line, as in most other things of life, have an advantage over women. They can wear at fifty, with out comment or criticism, the same clothes that their sons of twenty wear.

Man has ordained for men that their clothes shall not divert them from the main business of life; and they are standardized, therefore, and require only the slight attention of a visit to the tailor and a visit to the haberdasher twice a year.

Any suggestion for the standardization of women's clothes is met with scorn and contempt, although they, too, have become a race of workers who pick up pleasure on the side. And yet, in this world of work, the real workers are as entranced over changing raiment as the idler who has nothing else to think of. It is their chief diversion and most pleasurable recreation after the nine hours spent in earning their salary.

Looking into the near future, there is no hope for the revival of clothes for the middle-aged. Two or three of the authorities on dress in America have already given out a statement to the effect that straight, slim skirts for which we have grown so fond in the afternoon and evening gown be inaugurated in August.

Well, Josephine, Mme. de Stael and Mme. Recamier were not young when they wore the high-waisted satin frocks and the wrapped turbans with which we have grown familiar through their portraits.

It is said that the Empress Josephine designed the dress of the emperor so that she might look young in Napoleon's eyes, and this may make the dress of the empress a little less attractive to those who have counted for nothing in the eyes of the emperor.

There is no doubt that such a gown would be worn with a dignity by all classes of women, but the truth stares one in the face that, carelessly

### SUIT OF SERGE



WHITE SERGE SUIT, WITH SKIRT AND JACKET PLEATED.

handled, this style of garment on a large figure is apt to look like a night-gown.

Here is what I gather from Paris, in the way of information, in regard to the somersault from the second empire to the first.

The skirts will be longer than they have been for a year, and, true to type, they will hang straight to the ankles, with a smoothly fitted surface over the hips, the front and the back slightly gathered to keep from showing the round of the figure. There is no trimming whatever on the gown, unless one wishes to add, as the Empress Josephine did, a narrow, brilliantly colored belt that passes under the bust and fastens in a small bow at the side.

The bodice of this type of gown will be negligible, but more modest than those that have had quite a winning way with them in America for the last four months.

An empire bodice, as every one knows, has the short, puffed sleeves of lace or tulle and the slight, downward curve in the middle of the front and back, the material loosely drawn and edged with folds of white silk tulle.

The young girl will wear this gown in an alluring way, and the older woman who will copy her will find that it is better than the prevailing fashion that runs through all clothes.

As regards the street clothes, the designers have not yet decided whether they intend to exploit the straight, moderately narrow skirt with a slight distention, the minority of well dressed women in America and the better class of New York dressmakers will not be surprised if this comes true, the latter have anticipated it with prophetic souls and

WORLD of Fashion Bows to the "Broiler"—Generally Speaking, the Girl of Sixteen Is the One for Whom the Fashions for All Femininity Are Created—The Struggle for Dignity—One Youthful Style—No Hip Drapery, Says Paris—Silk Jackets and Lace Skirts. Little Girls in Ribbon Hats—Return of Empress Josephine Gowns.

### FROCKS THAT WILL PLEASE LITTLE GIRLS



(1) LITTLE GIRL'S FROCK OF RUFFLED ORGANDIE. THE STRAW HAT HAS A CROWN FORMED OF NARROW VELVET RIBBON. (2) A LOUIS XVI FLOWERED SILK FROCK FOR LITTLE GIRL. (3) YOUNG GIRL'S FROCK, WITH LITTLE JACKET OF NATTIER BLUE TAFFETA AND LACE SKIRT, EDGED WITH THE TAFFETA.

will also be inaugurated, it is rumored, but these have had quite a winning way with them in America for the last four months.

Coat collars that rise high in the middle of the back and lie flat over the chest until they reach the first button of a single-breasted coat have been exploited by Callot in fur as well as in cloth, and it may be that they

will be serious rivals to the flat, man's collar that is sure to be worn.

Straight coat sleeves that reach to the wrist, without trimming, are put into these short coats. There is a slight ripple just below the waist, just enough to give grace, but not enough to form a pannier effect.

One of the fancies that the dressmakers have launched for the young girl this summer is a combination of a silk sacque with a ruffled, lace skirt. The idea has been taken up by older women with success. The combination is an admirable one for the woman who wants a practical gown for a summer resort—something that is a compromise between a ball gown and an afternoon party frock.

The sacque is made of taffeta, usually in an eighteenth century color, its edge outlined with nineteenth century ruching. It is slightly low in the neck and usually belted, with a piece of itself fastened with a bunch of pink roses in front.

The skirt is of that new kind of lace that is quite popular this season; there

is a net foundation with a wide, sprawling lace design worked over part of the surface.

These skirts are made of one deep Spanish flounce or a series of graded ruffles, placed at infrequent intervals. Lace skirts aplenty are being advised by the dressmakers for women who are looking for something new, than chiffon and not as thick as voile.

This movement has brought in gowns of black lace—the kind women wore a quarter of a century ago. They are made of chantilly, of Callot lace and of large, figured silk, Spanish lace. The latter is especially attractive, as it comes in touch with a number of Spanish fashions which we have incorporated. The foundation is of net or thin chiffon—not of silk or satin, as in other days; therefore, it is available for our hot summers.

White lace is lavishly used for all kinds of frocks for the young girl this summer. She even wears it in the morning, in the form of a Cheruit shirt waist, which drops over a skirt of white serge, belted in with two-inch ribbon of white taffeta, with a picot edge.

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### GIRL'S AFTERNOON FROCK



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One gown of white tulle has six panels outlined by old rose ribbon reaching from bust to knees, passing under a folded belt of the tulle.

It is evident that the American dressmakers are determined to use up all the ribbon that the mills can supply during the summer. Whether it is a fashion or an economic measure, no one knows, but the result is the same. The picot-edged silk ribbon probably leads all the others; it not only trims gowns, but hats and underlinen.

In the beginning of the furore for ribbon it was the women who wore it on their hats, but now it is the youngsters between five and ten years old. These hats have the round crown and the downward dipping brim worn by adults, but the crowns are made entirely of criss-cross, velvet ribbon and there are long streamers that hang from the back of the crown to the back of the skirt, each finished with a pink rose. Usually, when such a hat is worn, there is a narrow, cravat or belt of velvet ribbon which is loosely knotted in front, its ends also finished with pink roses.

The way that children copy their mothers in clothes is laughable. The youngster has held for the empire waist all through the period of the eighteenth century bodice worn by touches of black, if Paris propriety be true, the latter will not only go to the fashions of the broilers for inspiration, but she will also copy them.

You know, the rumors of the return to the Empress Josephine gowns are really quite significant. On the face of it, it might be wise to have a little doubt as to whether the gowns that you are ordering at this moment will be available for next autumn.

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### FOR THE JUNE WEDDING

WHILE a "Fortunatus" purse, to be drawn upon at will, would be a convenient asset for the bride who wants a pretty wedding, with everything up-to-date and caterers and florists to take entire charge, it is only a bride in a thousand who draws such a purse. The other 999 brides—just as sweet and worthy, just as appreciative of all the lovely accessories that go so well with June and wedding bells—are obliged to look the cool fairly in the eye and make a modest financial outlay, coupled with brains, good sense and taste.

A truly practical girl doesn't want to leave an aftermath of unpaid bills in her wake for father and mother. Or even if they can afford it, she would rather take the lump sum that often goes to caterer and florist to add to her housefurnishing, and here is the crucial point. She is sure of achieving a chic and pretty wedding without that outlay.

For the June wedding all things are possible. For the country or village bride there are acres and acres of star-eyed daisies and crimson clover in every pasturing breeze to call attention to their sweetness and suggest their gathering.

There are elder bushes weighted down with creamy white blossoms, laurel bushes, glossy leaved, and all pinkly bloom gardens, roses galore, and just waiting for the June bride or the commencement girl.

In Serving Refreshments.

For a large number of guests, refreshments are passed, the gentlemen assisting the waiters to see that every one is properly cared for. At "stand-up" functions, the first plate that comes may hold a hot potato of some sort, salad and a thin bread-and-butter sandwich. When this is removed a sherbet glass of fruit punch is passed, then a fresh plate holding ice cream or an ice molded in some fancy shape, with strawberries and one or two small cakes. Lastly, coffee is served. If there is a big bride's cake, she cuts this now, and in a very informal, small wedding, frequently passes it herself.

The table is beautifully laid, buffet fashion, in the dining room or back parlor, with flowers, candelabra (if desired), plates of fancy cakes, bonbons, etc. The main supplies are brought in from the kitchen, while the punch bowl stands on a small table where guests can help themselves.

The throwing of rice or "old shoes" is

no longer considered in good taste, but a shower of rose petals or the little white satin slippers that some filled with silver confetti for this preserving a pretty custom well worth preserving.

Jellied Chicken Salad.

Cut up into small cubes sufficient cold cooked chicken to make a quart. Season well with salt and pepper, add two cups of celery cut fine, and moisten thoroughly with plain gelatin dissolved in a little hot chicken stock. Pour into pans the depth of about half an inch and set in a cool place until firm. At serving time, cut the jellied chicken in strips and garnish with lettuce and bits of pimento. Serve with mayonnaise dressing.

Dressings for Fruit Salads.

This is an excellent dressing for fruit salads where a mild but well flavored dressing is needed:

Take two eggs, two tablespoonsful of butter, a scant half cup of sugar, two tablespoonsful each of vinegar and lemon juice, two teaspoonsful of olive oil, one teaspoonful of salt, one teaspoonful of mustard (ground) and a pinch of red pepper. Cream the butter and sugar together; add the beaten eggs and other ingredients. Cook in a double boiler until thick. Keep in a cool place, and when ready to use, add one-half cup of whipped cream.

Another salad dressing for fruit calls for two eggs, one-half cup each of lemon juice and sugar. Beat the eggs, add the other ingredients and cook in a double boiler, stirring constantly until the dressing commences to thicken. Cool and pour over sliced fruit, any combination desired.

Frozen Cream Cheese Salad.

Add a half cup of cream to two cream cheeses and stir to a smooth paste. Season with salt, paprika and a little lemon juice, then turn into a freezer and freeze slightly. Remove, pack in a brick-shaped mold and cover for two hours with ice and salt. Then slice and serve on lettuce leaves with a French dressing.

Nasturtium and Cream Cheese Salad.

Pluck both leaves and blossoms of the spicy nasturtiums and wash well. Shake dry, arrange in the salad bowl or on individual plates, and in the center of each blossom tuck a little roll of cream

cheese to simulate the pistils of the flowers. Dust lightly with salt.

Fruit Salads.

For fruit salads any combination may be used. Canned pineapple goes well with cream. Fresh white cherries and bananas, seeded white grapes or canned peaches with oranges may be added as desired.

Sweetbread and Mushroom Patties.

Having soaked the sweetbread in cold water and blanched it in boiling water, take out, drain, trim and remove skin, fat and gristle. This must be carefully done.

Put in saucepan and pour on enough water to cover. Cook about fifty minutes, remove, drain and cut into pieces about an inch thick. Wash thoroughly eight or ten large peeled mushrooms, and put into a saucepan with a tablespoonful of butter and a tablespoonful of onion juice. Add salt and pepper to season, cover and cook slowly about twenty minutes. Put into the sauce a tablespoonful of butter and a tablespoonful of onion juice, and pour in a small cup of good stock. Cook a few minutes, stirring constantly. The mushrooms and sweetbreads.

Season with salt and pepper and turn the mixture out to cool. Have ready a dozen small party pans well buttered and lined with a rich puff paste, fill with the sweetbread mixture, cover with more of the paste, brush over the top with a beaten egg and bake about twenty minutes in a moderate oven.